

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06432 210922Z

15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INSE-00 IO-10 /032 W  
----- 012740

R 210808Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2254  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, KS,NLN

MHBEBJECT: VALIDITY OF US PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA

1. DURING AUGUST 21 DISCUSSION WITH POLCOUNS, DIRECTOR OF MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU YI SANG-OK RAISED QUESTION OF PROVISO STAMPED IN US PASSPORTS NOTIFYING BEARER THAT PASSPORT NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA, CUBA, AND NORTH VIETNAM. YI SAID THAT IT WAS ROKG UNDERSTANDING THIS NOTICE MIGHT BE DISCONTINUED AFTER SEPTEMBER 17. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NOTICE PRESENTED NO LEGAL BARRIERS TO US TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA, HE SAID THAT REMOVAL OF NOTICE MIGHT BE MISTAKEN BY SOME AND PLAYED UP BY PYONGYANG AS SIGN OF TACIT US ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH KOREAN REGIME. THIS COULD BE DAMAGING TO ROK CAUSE DURING UN DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION. YI ALSO SAID THAT SUCH MOVE MIGHT ENCOURAGE NORTH KOREANS TO INVITE KOREANS RESIDENT IN THE US TO PYONGYANG IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A PRO-PYONGYANG GROUP SUCH AS EXISTED IN JAPAN.

2. YI NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR HAHM WOULD BE CALLING AT THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS ISSUE ALONG SIMILAR LINES. POLCOUNS SAID THAT, IN ANY EVENT, HE WOULD CONVEY YI'S CONCERNS TO DEPARTMENT.  
ERICSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PASSPORTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL06432  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750289-0375  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750831/aaaabaod.tel  
**Line Count:** 52  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VALIDITY OF US PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US, KS, (YI SANG-OK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006